

## Minutes of the LEP Place Leadership Group

13 January 2016

NFU, Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton

### Attendees

Barbara Shaw (BS)	-	Westward Housing
Paul Hickson (PH)	-	Somerset County Council
Pat Steward (PS)	-	Torbay Council
Doug Bamsey (DB)	-	Somerset District Councils
Mark Robins (MR)	-	Devon, Plymouth and Somerset Local Nature Partnerships
Joe Keech (JK)	-	Devon County Council
Stephen Bird (SB)	-	South West Water/ HotSW LEP Board
Richard Grant (RG)	-	Plymouth City Council
Tim Jones (TJ)	-	HotSW LEP Board

### Presenters

Lee Richards (LR)	-	Regen SW
Thomas Davidson (TD)	-	DECC

### Supporting Officers

Natalie Wainwright (NW)	-	HotSW LEP Place Secretariat/Somerset County Council
Chris Garcia (CG)	-	HotSW LEP
Helena Davison (HD)	-	HotSW LEP

### Apologies

Ian Harrison (IH)	-	HotSW LEP Local Transport Board
Mike O'Dowd Jones (MODJ)	-	Somerset County Council
Judith Gannon (JG)	-	LEP Business Forum
Jonathon Bell (JB)	-	Plymouth City Council
David Northey (DN)	-	Network Rail
Derek Phillips (DP)	-	South West Chambers of Commerce
Heidi Hallam (HH)	-	HotSW LEP
Terry Schofield (TS)	-	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

	Agenda item	Lead
1	<b>Welcome, introductions and apologies</b> BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted, as above.	
2	<b>Declarations of interest</b> SB declared an interest in Item 4 as South West Water partially sponsor Regen SW and are actively engaged in adopting community renewables to power their assets.	
3	<b>Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising</b> Minutes of the last meeting were approved as an accurate record.  It was agreed that the Group would maintain a relationship with Climate SW, whilst they are active, as they can provide an independent source of data of relevance to live issues and current devolution discussions, i.e. implications of	NW/PH to identify Climate SW

	<p>flooding on the economy. How can we responsibly and sustainably build on flood plains, and ensure appropriate flood protection? Is there adequate protection for electricity power stations? Are we clear on the nature of the risk and opportunity?</p> <p>After discussion, the revised Terms of Reference were approved. It was agreed that these would be reviewed again in a year.</p> <p>Following the presentation of the Housing Report to the LEP Board, lessons learned/suggestions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tighten Terms of Reference for all task and finish groups to ensure adequate consultation with stakeholders prior to Board-level consideration;</li> <li>• Provide greater clarity regarding the inclusion/exclusion of specific recommendations within the current Devolution discussions;</li> <li>• Ensure recipients are clear on purpose of papers coming forward, i.e. for information, adoption, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>contact</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>A Spotlight on Energy</b></p> <p>Lee Richards (LR) of Regen SW, presented ‘Energy market, policy and future growth scenarios to 2030.’</p> <p>LR pointed to the increase in international investors and corporations adopting renewable technologies and considering energy efficiency over the past 10 years. More locally, work has extended to some 260 communities in the SW. There is now greater investment in renewables than traditional sources, i.e. gas, coal and oil and, although important to our region, Nuclear will only play a small role in this internationally.</p> <p>Summary of challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government “trilemma” – Keeping the lights on, protecting consumer bills, decarbonisation;</li> <li>• Despite recent policy changes, we need to retain high skilled, highly productive jobs;</li> <li>• The work of Western Power Distribution was introduced, which showed the growth in renewables and distributed energy generation is creating greater pressure on the grid, as more new connections are required;</li> <li>• The Place Group is keen to ensure that waiting times for some high demand connections does not affect the LEP’s ability to deliver its economic growth ambitions;</li> </ul> <p>Actions to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WPD have adopted short-term mitigation measures;</li> <li>• The LEP is lobbying MPs;</li> <li>• The LEP is supporting Regen SW and has written to cross-LEP partners. Active support has been received from Cornwall and is being sought from the West of England;</li> </ul>	<p>NW to circulate slides and briefing paper</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LEP is in the process of commissioning Regen SW to devise a practical guide to businesses and developers on how to manage/deal with energy related issues;</li> <li>• Affordability and price signals appear to be overriding strategic long term decision-making for our area.</li> </ul> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Investment is required in the network;</li> <li>• Companies work on Bolt Supply Point Network areas, therefore there is a need for cross-LA/LEP working;</li> <li>• Match the devolution offer with potential new funding, as advised by DECC, i.e. European funds and next wave of local partnership pilots – more information to follow;</li> <li>• DECC is aware of grid capacity issues and is looking at how links to the grid can be brought forward on an earlier timescale</li> </ul> <p>Stakeholders are encouraged to attend two events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 February – Dissemination event on WPD work, Bristol</li> <li>• 17 March – Smart Energy Market Place Event, Sandy Park, Exeter</li> </ul> <p>SB suggested that an argument needed to be constructed, highlighting the issues of poor infrastructure, resilience, etc, in energy terms. JK proposed that this be pitched as a positive, i.e. there would be a much greater return on investment in the Heart of the South West.</p> <p>The following actions were agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All to contribute to further development of the evidence base. Mel Sealey has offered to coordinate as part of the ‘Resilience’ theme. Any contributions should be sent to <a href="mailto:melanie.sealey@devon.gov.uk">melanie.sealey@devon.gov.uk</a>;</li> <li>2. All Local Authority representatives to feed back to their members re: implications for Devolution Deal;</li> <li>3. TD to clarify the Ofgem vs Govt roles and responsibilities;</li> <li>4. ? to draft a letter to DECC, sent via Tom, setting out the HotSW’s action plan;</li> <li>5. TD to forward information re: the Local Partnerships Pilot as it becomes available;</li> <li>6. NW to include commissioned work from Regen SW on the agenda of the next meeting.</li> </ol>	<p>See numbered list or actions log</p>
	<p><b>European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)</b></p> <p>This is one of three funds that make up the Local Growth Programme. Government’s early indication was that LEPs would have a leadership role in managing the funds. This has now evolved and each of the HotSW LEP Leadership Groups has been asked to take a leadership/relationship management role with the relevant managing authorities. EAFRD, although a cross-cutting theme, will sit with the Place Group and a formal link has now been established with DEFRA.</p> <p>The Local Growth allocation is expected to be reduced significantly, in part due to</p>	

	<p>currency fluctuations, but also due to ministerial announcements regarding commitments to other areas of the programme, i.e. Countryside Stewardship and Leader. There is a contractual requirement of 5%(?) to be spent on the latter. The LEP has sent a letter to Minister George Eustice, who is looking at options as to how the budget could be revised. We asked Government to look creatively to hold funds at the Euro, rather than the Sterling value.</p> <p>SB stated that he would welcome more evidence to go armed to meetings with. He also urged the Group to focus less on the potential financial losses and more on opportunities to do more/do things differently. Do we know the benefits of the CAP for the SW, for example, particularly spend on countryside stewardship and it's impact on the economy? The farming community is hugely involved in flood management but is underplayed. He suggested a need to step up as a LEP to align Leader investment and influence where funds are spent. This might involve improving relationships with Local Action Groups. There is potential to engage agritech firms in the Innovation Fund for example.</p> <p>MR said that Devon and Somerset receive the greatest chunk of Countryside Stewardship funds but questioned whether the outcomes achieved represent value for money. We have a leading academic at University of Exeter and Environmental partners that could equip the LEP with narrative to support a stronger case for the HotSW.</p>	<p>Include as a 'Spotlight' item on agenda of next meeting.</p>
	<p><b>Growth Deal and Devolution</b> CSR confirmed GD1&amp;2 but no clarity regarding GD3 as yet. Emphasis is currently on spending the £65m to arrive in April 2016 and managing slippage on GD1 spend. The LEP project pipeline will need to be refreshed and preferably seek to deliver impact in 2019/20. Deliverability will be key, as ever, so a clear business case for projects is important.</p> <p>CG highlighted a Science and Innovation Audit and Skills Area Review on the horizon. DfT is also expected to introduce new criteria to ensure some cycling schemes can be funded.</p>	
	<p><b>'Good to know' - Updates</b> <b>PMO – above.</b> PH reminded the group that we all had a responsibility in managing partner expectations in light of the above. <b>Spatial Assessment</b> – Work is underway to finalise the evidence base for the spatial assessment. A technical workshop was held in December, which started to review the emerging results from this phase of work. The evidence base will be looked at under three topic areas: Housing, Economic and Environmental. <b>SQW</b> has been asked to work on identifying a set of success measures for each of the Leadership Groups. CG shared the Place Theme Indicators. <b>Enterprise Zone</b> Autumn statement included announcement that HotSW EZ bid was signed off. Subsequently, partners are now looking at the governance options for the EZ. Meeting this afternoon. Cross –LEP working should be considered. <b>Task and Finish Groups</b></p>	<p><i>Results to be presented to March meeting</i></p> <p><i>Reflect on Place Theme Indicators at future</i></p>

	<p><i>Housing</i> – Clarity is sought on which elements of the Housing paper will be included as part of the Devolution package or alternative means.</p> <p><i>Environmental Resilience</i> – A stakeholder workshop will be held this afternoon. A consultation period will follow, prior to draft recommendations being reported to the March Place Group meeting.</p> <p>A joint Local Nature Partnerships/LEP Natural Capital Accounting workshop/discussion is proposed for 2016.</p> <p><b>Transport</b> No update</p> <p><b>Other LEP group representation</b></p> <p><i>Unlocking Growth Fund</i> – Suggested priorities now agreed.</p> <p><i>ESIF</i> – BIG Lottery submissions have now been appraised. These are largely focused on skills agenda and social exclusion and will pick up momentum in the spring.</p>	<p><i>meeting (Paper to be drafted)</i></p>
	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> 10:00-12:30, 2 March 2016, Yarlinton Housing, Yeovil BA22 8WN</p>	

<b>Actions Log Summary</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status Update</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>
Present scope of Spatial Framework at meeting on 06/01/2015 and progress project.	03/11/2014	Paul Hickson	Update to January meeting 13/01/2016.	Tbc
To complete and return Declarations of Interest form	07/05/2015	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	Two returns outstanding.	Update in March/April for 2016/17
Send Natalie items for inclusion in the forward plan for Place meetings	07/05/2015	All	Complete to March 2016	Continue
Place Leadership Group to identify priority projects for Growth Deal 3 by 14 September	08/07/2015	All / Natalie Wainwright	First sift to LEP Board 16 September.	TBC
Establish truth behind rumours that Climate South West has been wound up.	09/09/2015	Mark Robins/Stephen Bird	Active on Social media.	Re-open and maintain contact.
Connect the Role of LEPs in the Planning Process work with Spatial Assessment (SA).	09/09/2015	Paul Hickson	Chris Balch facilitated workshop (above) 17 December.	TBC
Raise issue with Management Team to ensure purpose of agenda items is clear and encourage/allow meaningful contributions from members.	09/09/2015	Barbara Shaw/Paul Hickson	Refresh of Leadership Groups.	Review Task and Finish Group ToR and papers
Torrige and North Devon Councils to continue dialogue with Network Rail re: Barnstaple link.	04/11/2015	David Northey	?	TBC
Comments to Paul Taylor on Devolution/Growth Deal page	04/11/2015	All	Ongoing	TBC
Report back comments from SIP to Group members via email.	04/11/2015	Paul Taylor	To follow	TBC
<i>To develop and approach relevant individuals to attend and contribute to Energy themed meeting in January.</i>	<i>04/11/2015</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright/ Paul Hickson</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>Close</i>
Terms of Reference document to be updated and shared on the website.	04/11/2015	Natalie Wainwright/ Helena Davison	Complete and approved.	Review in a year
Identify new RSL/Housing representative following BR's departure.	04/11/2015	Barbara Shaw	In progress	Representative tbc.
<i>Circulate Regen SW slides and Energy briefing paper</i>	<i>13/01/2016</i>	<i>Natalie Wainwright</i>	<i>Complete</i>	<i>Close</i>
Contributions to Energy theme of	13/01/2016	All		

Devolution Deal to be sent to <a href="mailto:melanie.sealey@devon.gov.uk">melanie.sealey@devon.gov.uk</a>				
Feed back to Council Members re: implications of Energy challenges for Devolution Deal	13/01/2016	All Local Authority representatives		
Clarify the Ofgem vs Govt roles and responsibilities	13/01/2016	Thomas Davidson (DECC)		
Draft a letter to DECC, sent via Tom, setting out the HotSW's action plan	13/01/2016	?		
Forward information re: the Local Partnerships Pilot as it becomes available	13/01/2016	Thomas Davidson		
Include LEP-commissioned work from Regen SW on the agenda of the next meeting	13/01/2016	Natalie Wainwright		
Include EAFRD opportunities as a future 'Spotlight on' topic	13/01/2016	Natalie Wainwright		
Include a review of the draft Place Theme Indicators/success measures on the agenda of the next meeting (include briefing paper)	13/01/2016	Natalie Wainwright		